

Senator Alan Cranston

GLC

24 June 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY

STAT
Dear

Thank you for your note of 31 May 1970 in which you express concern about the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

On the assumption that you would like to know more about the functions of this agency, which was established by an act of Congress in 1947, I am enclosing for your information a pamphlet on the CIA which covers not only the statutory basis under which it operates but also discusses supervision given it both in the Executive and Legislative Branches of our Government.

I trust that you have fully recovered from the surgery to your hand.

Sincerely,

Senator George Murphy

GLC

24 June 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY

STAT

Dear

This is in response to your letter of 21 May 1970 in which you express concern about the Central Intelligence Agency generally and raise several specific points regarding possible CIA involvement in the present situation in Cambodia.

As I believe you know, the CIA does not comment on the various allegations which are made in the press and elsewhere with regard to its activities. Although the Agency has made no public comment with respect to its possible involvement in the Cambodian political upheaval, it has been made a matter of record that the Agency had no part in Prime Minister Sihanouk's ouster.

I can appreciate the reasons for your general concern, but I can assure you that the Agency is the subject of detailed oversight both in the Executive Branch and in the Congress. In addition to the supervision which it receives directly from the President and the National Security Counsel, CIA is responsive to the supervision of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (the membership of which I am enclosing) and its budget receives detailed attention by the Bureau of the Budget.

In the Congress, Subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate keep themselves informed

with regard to the Agency. I have the privilege of being one of the five members of the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee and I can assure you that the Agency holds nothing back from this Subcommittee or from the CIA Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I can also assure you that the appropriations for CIA are given as close a scrutiny as any agency in Government, notwithstanding the fact that of necessity this must be done outside of the public eye.

My colleagues on the Appropriations Subcommittee are men of the highest caliber. I know they are as concerned as anyone can be regarding the high cost of running our Government and they are taking such steps as they feel are prudent to reduce these expenses in so far as possible.

On the assumption that you would be interested in the mission of the Agency and the statutory authority under which it operates, I am enclosing for your information a pamphlet on the Agency.

I trust that this information is responsive to your inquiry.

Enclosures

SUGGESTED REPLY

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Dear

The charges which you refer to in your recent letter to the effect that the Central Intelligence Agency is involved in dope activities undoubtedly stems from an address reportedly made by Representative John V. Tunney, of California, to the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles and which was commented upon in the 11 April issue of the New Yorker magazine. I am enclosing a copy of that article.

The Central Intelligence Agency does not officially comment on various allegations which are made from time to time in the press and elsewhere with regard to its activities, However, I have looked into the matter mentioned in the New Yorker article and pass on for your information some of the facts as they have been made available to me. The original decision to support the Meo tribesmen under General Vang Pao was made by President Kennedy in 1961. Because of the rapid deterioration of the situation in Laos due to Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese expansion of areas under their control, the Kennedy Administration made the decision to support the Meo tribesmen who were seeking to prevent their country from being overrun by these forces who had direct Soviet assistance. U.S. advisors were withdrawn from Laos following the Geneva agreement of 1962, but in 1963, when it became obvious that the North Vietnamese had

no intention of observing Laotian neutrality and in response to appeals from Vang Pao, the U.S. resumed logistical and materiel support.

The charge that Vang Pao is attempting to dominate other factions throughout Northern Laos apparently overlooks the fact that Vang Pao's troops are engaged solely in defending their own homeland against the vastly superior invading forces--67,000 North Vietnamese troops.

Contrary to the statement in the New Yorker article, the Plain de Jarres is only 300 miles from the Ho Chi Minh Trail and operations there have a direct impact on the enemy's use of the trail.

While opium is indeed grown in northern Laos, that grown by the Meo tribes is consumed locally and does not reach the export market. Most of the opium exported from Southeast Asia comes from Burma and according to the Bureau of Narcotics all of Southeast Asia provides only 5 percent of the opium and opium derivatives sold in the U.S.

In recent years, U.S. advisers have been quite successful in persuading the Meos to substitute cash crops of rice and livestock in order to reduce their reliance on opium. U.S. airlines operating in the Far East, including Laos, employ security personnel specifically assigned to watch for smuggling of any kind, including opium.

I trust you will find this information of assistance in your evaluation of this article.

Enclosure

Rep. F. Bradford Morse

GLC

24 June 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY

STAT
Dear

Thank you for your recent letter expressing concern over the oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As you are aware, the Central Intelligence Agency does not comment on the various allegations which are made in the press and elsewhere with regard to its activities. I can appreciate the reasons for your concern, but I can assure you that the Agency is the subject of detailed oversight both in the Executive Branch and in the Congress. In addition to the supervision which it receives directly from the President and the National Security Counsel, CIA is responsive to the supervision of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (the membership of which I am enclosing) and its budget receives detailed attention from the Bureau of the Budget.

In the Congress, Subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate keep themselves informed with regard to the Agency. My colleagues on these Subcommittees in the House assure me that the appropriations for the CIA are given as close a scrutiny as any agency in the Government, notwithstanding the fact that this is done outside the public eye.

On the assumption that you would be interested in the mission of the Agency and the statutory authority under which it operates, I am enclosing for your interest a pamphlet on the Agency.

I trust that this information is responsive to your inquiry.

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